

Weekly Beat

October 17th, 2025

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IN THIS ISSUE

News from the City

October City
Council Meeting

Departmental
News and Updates

Fields of Faith

City of Seymour Upcoming Events

By Jeffrey L. Brasher, Ed.D.

- **OCTOBER 25TH, 2025, HAUNTED CITY HALL AT 6:00 PM -7:00 PM, COSTUME CONTEST AT 7:00 PM.**
- November 1st, 2025 Grand Opening of Seymour Skate Park; Time: TBD
- November 11th, 2025 City Hall Closed in Observance of Veteran's Day.
- November 27th and 28th City Hall Closed in Observance of Thanksgiving
- November 20th, 2025, City Council Meeting at 7:00 PM at City Hall
- February 21st, 2026 Trout Fishing Tournament at Salt Fork Recreational Facility: 9:00-11:00.
- First Thursdays Bingo at Portwood Pavillion 6:00 PM

October 16th, 2025 City Council Meeting Update

SEYMOUR, TX — October 15, 2025

The Seymour City Council convened for its regular meeting Thursday morning at City Hall, with Mayor Mark McCord calling the session to order. Following roll call, it was noted that Council Member Debbie Gillespie was absent. City Administrator Dr. Jeffrey Brasher led the Council in an opening prayer, setting a thoughtful and respectful tone for the meeting. Mayor Mark McCord then made a special announcement regarding the upcoming Haunted City Hall Celebration, scheduled for Saturday at 6:00 PM at City Hall. The event promises to be a fun and festive gathering for families and residents of all ages. In a moment of recognition, Dr. Brasher commended the Seymour Street Department and Doug McMicken at the Transfer Station for their outstanding efforts during City-Wide Cleanup Week. Their dedication and hard work were instrumental in restoring order and cleanliness throughout the community. The Administrator expressed appreciation for their commitment to public service and the positive impact their teamwork had on the city. This acknowledgment was met with support from Council members, who echoed the importance of recognizing city staff for their contributions to Seymour's continued improvement.

During the meeting, Marti Simpson with the Texas Municipal League (TML) Boot Camp addressed the Council with an important update regarding the City's audit process. Simpson reported that Seymour is closing in on the completion of the 2024 audit, marking significant progress in the City's financial reporting efforts. She further explained that once the 2024 audit is finalized, TML will continue to support the City in preparing and completing the 2025 audit ahead of the March 2026 deadline. This timeline is critical due to recent legislative changes which mandate that municipalities must be current with their audits in order to adopt the voter approval tax rate. Simpson emphasized the importance of maintaining compliance with these new regulations and encouraged Council members to remain engaged in the planning and oversight process to ensure timely completion. Her remarks reinforced the City's commitment to transparency, accountability, and proactive financial management as Seymour works to meet all state requirements and maintain its fiscal health. Following the presentation by Marti Simpson, City Administrator Dr. Jeffrey Brasher delivered his administrative report to the Council. He noted that City-Wide Cleanup Week was winding down and reminded residents not to place any additional debris at the curb unless they first contact City Hall. Arrangements can be made for pickup, but a service fee will apply. This measure is intended to help maintain orderly cleanup efforts and prevent unauthorized dumping. Dr. Brasher also reported that wild hog activity has been observed on and near the Salt Fork Golf Course. In response, Animal Control Officer Rick Shumate has been actively trapping the animals and has successfully captured nine to date. These hogs are sold, and the proceeds are reinvested into the Animal Control Department to support ongoing operations. In airport-related updates, the Administrator shared that a private individual has recently purchased several hangars at the Seymour Municipal Airport. The buyer has agreed to rent a city-owned hangar pad and plans to construct a new hangar on-site. Additionally, preliminary discussions have taken place regarding the potential development of a fuel farm at the airport, pending compliance with all applicable TxDOT and NFPA regulations. Dr. Brasher also confirmed the completion of the airport fence project, which was funded through insurance proceeds. This marks a significant step toward finalizing the cleanup and restoration efforts following the tornado damage earlier this year.

As the meeting progressed, the Council held three public hearings concerning properties identified as dilapidated or posing potential public nuisances. The first hearing addressed 205 W McLain. City staff reported structural deficiencies and conditions that may present safety concerns. The hearing provided an opportunity for the property owner and community members to offer input and explore possible remedies or enforcement actions. The second hearing focused on 801 N East, owned by the John Ramsay Living Trust. This location has also been flagged for issues related to structural integrity and public safety. Council members reviewed the findings and discussed appropriate steps to bring the property into compliance or initiate abatement procedures if necessary. The final hearing concerned 211 S Tackitt, a property owned by Promise Land Properties. This site has been cited for substandard conditions and nuisance violations. The hearing allowed for a thorough review of the situation and opened the floor for discussion on how best to proceed with corrective measures. These hearings reflect the City's ongoing commitment to maintaining safe and livable neighborhoods, and Council members emphasized the importance of community engagement in addressing property concerns. Decisions regarding each property will be considered in accordance with local ordinances and public input received during the hearings. As part of the consent agenda, the Council approved the minutes from the regular called meeting held on September 18, 2025. Additionally, the accounts payable for the month of September 2025 were reviewed and approved. The Council also passed Resolution No. 1594 concerning Goods in Transit, formalizing the City's position on the taxation and handling of goods temporarily located within city limits. These approvals reflect the Council's continued commitment to maintaining accurate records, fiscal responsibility, and compliance with state and local regulations.

From Streets to Services: Seymour's Weekly Department Highlights

The City of Seymour would like to recognize the dedicated efforts of **Animal Control Officer Rick Shumate**, who continues to serve our community with professionalism and care in managing animal-related concerns. This past week, Officer Shumate responded to ten animal-related calls, addressing a wide range of issues across town. He picked up three dogs, adding to the three already housed in the city pound, and successfully released three dogs back to their owners or into safe care. In addition to domestic animal duties, Officer Shumate handled several wildlife-related incidents. He removed three deceased cats, three squirrels, and one raccoon from public areas. He also caught and removed three wild hogs from the golf course, four skunks, two raccoons, and one possum, helping to keep neighborhoods safe and free from potential hazards. Officer Shumate's work plays a vital role in maintaining public health and safety, and we appreciate his continued commitment to serving the residents of Seymour.

This week, the **Seymour Street Department** maintained a steady and productive pace as crews focused on post-event cleanup following last week's City-Wide Cleanup Week. The team worked diligently to remove remaining debris from various locations around town, ensuring public spaces were restored to safe and orderly conditions. In coordination with Waste Connections, the department facilitated the pickup of full refuse bins and the delivery of empty containers to maintain continuous cleanup operations. This collaboration allowed crews to efficiently cycle through designated areas without delay. During periods when bins reached capacity, the team redirected their efforts to address mulch management. Crews successfully relocated accumulated mulch to an approved site and spread it in accordance with Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) guidelines. Additionally, as a proactive measure to protect public health, the Street Department conducted mosquito spraying throughout the community. This effort was aimed at minimizing the potential threat of West Nile virus and reducing mosquito populations in high-risk areas. The department's commitment to maintaining momentum, adhering to environmental standards, and prioritizing community safety reflects their dedication to keeping Seymour clean, safe, and compliant. Supervisor Ronnie Kolacek commended the team for their responsiveness and coordination throughout the week.

The City of Seymour is proud to highlight the outstanding work of **John Davis, Supervisor of the Reverse Osmosis (RO) Plant**. Over the past week, the plant produced an impressive 4.6 million gallons of treated water, which was distributed to both the City of Seymour and the Baylor Water Supply Corporation, ensuring consistent and safe water access for our community. Throughout the week, plant operators remained vigilant in monitoring chlorine residuals across town to maintain proper disinfection levels. They tracked the volume of wastewater discharged from the facility, took daily readings on the primary RO units to ensure optimal performance, and performed routine maintenance on the chlorination equipment. In addition, Mr. Davis calibrated all handheld meters for accurate field measurements and worked diligently on the validation documentation required for the upcoming Water Loss Audit.

The City of Seymour commends **the Electric Department, led by Supervisor John Joyce**, for their continued dedication to maintaining and improving our electrical infrastructure. This past week, the team completed a range of essential tasks to ensure safe and reliable service for our residents. Routine operations included weekly vehicle maintenance checks and reclosure readings, which help monitor system performance and identify potential issues before they arise. The crew also responded to locate requests, supporting safe excavation and construction activities throughout the city. Line maintenance was a major focus, with crews trimming primary and secondary lines along the 500 and 600 blocks of South Washington Street, around China Street, and on the 200 block of East Lincoln Street. These efforts help prevent outages and maintain clear access to power lines. In addition, the department changed out and updated meters at six residences, improving service accuracy and efficiency. A significant portion of the week was dedicated to resolving the Circuit 5 outage, a complex issue that required repairing services, replacing a transformer and pole, and disconnecting and inspecting lines. Thanks to coordinated efforts with the Street and Water Departments, the majority of Circuit 5 was successfully restored, and the area was cleaned up and secured. Supervisor Joyce and his team continue to demonstrate professionalism, teamwork, and a strong commitment to keeping Seymour powered and safe. Their hard work is deeply appreciated.

The City of Seymour commends the ongoing efforts of the **Seymour Police Department, led by Chief Bryce Sawyer**, for their commitment to public safety and community engagement. This past week, officers issued criminal trespass notices, conducted school visits, and maintained a visible presence through traffic enforcement across town. The department also responded to civil disputes, providing mediation to help resolve issues peacefully, and carried out multiple welfare checks to ensure the safety and well-being of residents. In addition to these duties, officers continued work on multiple follow-up investigations, demonstrating diligence in pursuing ongoing cases and maintaining accountability. Looking back at the month of September, the department issued 17 citations, delivered 59 warnings, and made 2 arrests. They also responded to a total of 225 calls for service, reflecting the wide range of responsibilities the department handles daily. Chief Sawyer and his team remain dedicated to protecting and serving the Seymour community with professionalism and care. Their work is vital to maintaining a safe and supportive environment for all.

The City of Seymour would like to recognize the hard work and dedication of the **Water Department, led by Supervisor Chase Hoyt**, for their continued efforts to maintain and improve our water infrastructure. This past week, the department focused heavily on repairing water leaks throughout town—a critical task that demands time, precision, and teamwork. Crews successfully repaired leaks on North Donald Street, Plainview Street, Weiss Street, and Reeves Street, restoring service and preventing further water loss in these areas. In addition to leak repairs, the team also completed work on the water well rack, ensuring that the system remains in good working condition and continues to support the city’s water supply needs. Supervisor Hoyt and his crew continue to demonstrate a strong commitment to keeping Seymour’s water systems running smoothly. Their responsiveness and attention to detail are essential to the health and reliability of our community’s infrastructure.





Pictured above from left to right: Council Members Skyler Henricks, Nancy Townley, Lan Winn, Mayor Mark McCord, and Billy Henricks engage in thoughtful discussion as they review the evening's agenda, demonstrating their dedication to making informed decisions that serve the best interests of the Seymour community.

The Council then moved into discussion and action on several properties identified as substandard structures and public nuisances. Regarding the property located at 205 W McLain, owned by Curtis Lan Thomas, the Council voted to proceed with the demolition process. The owner, along with any lienholders or mortgagees, has been ordered to demolish the structure and eliminate all unhealthy and unsafe conditions. This includes cleaning and grading the property. Should the required actions not be completed within the specified timeframe, the City will take necessary steps to demolish the structure, clean and grade the lot, and place a lien on the property without further notice or hearing. Similar action was taken concerning the property at 801 N East, owned by the John Ramsay Living Trust. The Council determined that the structure must be demolished and the site cleared of all unsafe conditions. Failure to comply will result in the City initiating demolition and cleanup, followed by a lien placement to recover costs. The third property reviewed was 211 S Tackitt, owned by Promise Land Properties. The Council voted to move forward with demolition, issuing the order for removal of the structure and remediation of the site. As with the other properties, noncompliance will authorize the City to proceed with demolition and establish a lien without further notice. In financial matters, the Council approved Resolution No. 1593, which included budget adjustments for the 2025–2026 fiscal year. These amendments were presented by staff and adopted without objection. The Council also approved the Employee Calendar for the upcoming fiscal year, outlining holidays, administrative schedules, and key operational dates. Regarding infrastructure improvements, the Council reviewed bids for roof replacements at City Hall, the Police Department, and the Fire Hall. After discussion, the item was tabled and will be revisited at next month's meeting to allow for further evaluation. No bids were received for the property located at 402 E. Morris, and the Council acknowledged the lack of submissions. In a move to enhance the downtown area, the Council voted to approve a partnership with the Seymour Beautification Group. This agreement authorizes the group to improve city-owned property, including enhancements to the downtown esplanades. Finally, the Council approved a street closure for the upcoming Haunted Halloween Downtown Event, scheduled for October 25, 2025, at 6:00 PM. The event is expected to draw families and residents for a night of festive fun at City Hall.

The meeting came to a close following action taken in closed session, where the Council directed City Administrator Dr. Jeffrey Brasher to seek an official appraisal of the Salt Fork Golf Course. This step will provide valuable insight into the property's value and support future planning efforts related to city-owned assets. With all agenda items addressed, the meeting was adjourned at 7:53 PM. The evening concluded with a series of decisions that reflect the Council's commitment to progress, transparency, and community well-being. Each action taken positions Seymour for a brighter and more sustainable future—one built on thoughtful leadership and continued investment in the city's growth.

Hundreds Gather for Seymour's Fields of Faith at Fair Park Stadium



Pictured above Fields of Faith speaker Carlton Young spoke to a crowd of approximately 250 students from Seymour, Munday and Guthrie at Fair Park Stadium about the love of Christ.

Seymour, Texas-- On Wednesday, October 16, 2025, Fair Park Stadium in Seymour, Texas was filled with energy, inspiration, and unity as hundreds of students from Seymour, Munday, and Guthrie came together for the annual Fields of Faith event. The student-led gathering brought young people onto the field not for competition, but for connection—through worship, testimony, and a shared desire to grow in their faith.

The evening opened with powerful praise music from the Harvest Church band, featuring Ruby Smart, Jaylyn Kinnibrugh, Ruthe Wright, Auston Moore, and Braxton Torrez. Their heartfelt worship set the tone for a night of reflection and renewal.

Students Diannah Charo and Ruthie Wright from Seymour ISD courageously shared their personal testimonies, offering messages of hope and faith that resonated deeply with their peers. The event was emceed by Coaches and Seymour High School FCA Directors Aaron Anderson and Danlee Duncan, whose leadership helped guide the evening with warmth and encouragement.

At the heart of Fields of Faith is a simple but profound mission: to inspire students to grow in their faith and live out their God-given purpose. By creating space for young voices and spiritual mentorship, the event empowers students to take ownership of their journey and support one another in walking boldly with conviction.

The keynote speaker, Carlton Young, delivered a transformative message that captivated the crowd. A minister, mentor, and strategic leadership coach, Young shared his powerful testimony of surviving a near-fatal shooting in January 1996 and answering God's call to lead others through faith and mindset development. As founder of Faith Nation Ministries and Mindset U, Young helps individuals grow spiritually, mentally, emotionally, and physically—building kingdom leaders who live with integrity, accountability, and purpose.

His message blended Gospel truth with practical strategy, urging students to overcome adversity, renew their minds, and embrace the calling God has placed on their lives.

Fields of Faith 2025 was more than an event—it was a movement of young hearts united in purpose. As the stadium lights dimmed and students returned home, the seeds of faith planted on that field will continue to grow, shaping lives and strengthening the spirit of the community.